

Message Text

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AID-20 SCI-06 OMB-01 INT-08 AEC-11 IO-13 EA-11 EB-11

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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7716

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SUBJ: REACTION TO VISIT OF DR. KISSINGER

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: DR. KISSINGER'S RECENT TWO-DAY VISIT TO MEXICO HAS RECEIVED HEAVY AND, FOR THE MOST PART, FAVORABLE COVERAGE. MOST EDITORIAL WRITERS AND COLUMNISTS HAVE INTERPRETED IT AS A POSITIVE GESTURE ON BOTH PRESIDENT NIXON'S AND DR. KISSINGER'S PART; BUT SOME OF THEM CAUTION THAT IT IS BEST TO ADOPT A WAIT-AND-SEE ATTITUDE WITH REGARD TO ACTIONS. THE LOCAL PRESS GAVE PROMINENCE TO THE REMARKS OF FONSEC RABASA ABOUT THE VISIT; LITTLE OR NO REACTION BY OTHER GOM OFFICIALS HAS BEEN REPORTED. END SUMMARY.

2. FONSEC RABASA CHARACTERIZED THE VISIT OF DR. KISSINGER TO MEXICO AS PART OF A "DECISIVE AND DEFINITE OPENING TOWARD THE LATIN AMERICAN NATIONS," AND AS A SYMBOL OF THE IMPORTANCE WHICH PRESIDENT NIXON HAS ORDERED HIM TO GIVE TO MEXICO AND LATIN AMERICA DURING HIS TENURE AS SECRETARY OF STATE. THE FON SEC ADDED THAT MEXICO NOW HOPES THAT THE US WILL TAKE A COMPLETELY ACTIVE ATTITUDE TOWARD HER SOUTHERN NEIGHBORS.

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3. WITH REFERENCE TO THE PROBLEM OF SALINITY, RABASA COMMENTED THAT DR. KISSINGER HAS FUNDAMENTALLY CONTRIBUTED TO THE DEFINITIVE RESOLUTION OF THIS IRRITATING AND TROUBLESOME QUESTION AND THAT HE HAS HELPED MEXICO MUCH MORE THAN COULD HAVE BEEN EXPECTED IN SUCH MATTERS.

4. COMMENTING ABOUT DR. KISSINGER HIMSELF, THE MEXICAN FOREIGN SECRETARY SAID THAT HE IS "AN EXTRAORDINARY MAN" BECAUSE HE ALWAYS SPEAKS WITH TRUTH AND HONOR AND MENTIONED THAT WHAT HAD IMPRESSED HIM THE MOST WAS THAT HE ALWAYS KEEPS HIS WORD. RABASA ADDED THAT DR. KISSINGER'S VISIT, IN KEEPING WITH HIS PROMISE, WAS AN ACT OF FRIENDSHIP NOT ONLY TOWARD HIMSELF BUT ALSO TOWARD PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA AND, IN GENERAL, TOWARD ALL THE MEXICAN PEOPLE. RABASA DESCRIBED DR. KISSINGER IN PROFESSIONAL TERMS AS BOTH A THEORETICAL POLITICAL SCIENTIST AND THE MOST PRAGMATIC POLITICIAN OF HIS TIME.

5. EDITORIAL COMMENT IN THE MEXICO CITY DAILIES WAS LARGELY FAVORABLE. SEMI-OFFICIAL EL NACIONAL COMMENTED THAT DR. KISSINGER'S VISIT WAS UNDOUBTEDLY A GESTURE BY THE US SIGNIFYING THAT THE USG WILL ADOPT A POLICY OF FRIENDSHIP TOWARD LATIN AMERICA, MENTIONING HIS STATEMENT THAT US POLICY WILL BE ONE OF RESPECT FOR LATIN INDEPENDENCE AND TOTAL COOPERATION WITH THE REGION. THE EDITORIAL ALSO FAVORABLY MENTIONED DR. KISSINGER'S REMARKS ON THE CHARTER OF THE ECONOMIC RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF STATES. (SEE END OF PARA 7 BELOW.)

6. INDEPENDENT-LEFT-OF-CENTER EXCELSIOR COMMENTED EDITORIALY THAT IN THE PAST DR. KISSINGER HAS CONCENTRATED UPON THE SOCIALIST WORLD AND EUROPE TO THE EXCLUSION OF LATIN AMERICA AND CALLED FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT HOW HE HAD HELPED WITH THE SALINITY NEGOTIATIONS.

7. LEFTIST-NATIONALIST-BUSINESS ORIENTED EL UNIVERSAL INTERPRETED DR. KISSINGER'S VISIT AS AN ENDORESEMENT OF THE TRADITIONALLY FRIENDLY RELATIONS BETWEEN MEXICO AND THE US. DESCRIBING DR. KISSINGER AS NOW THE MOST POWERFUL MAN IN THE US AFTER THE PRESIDENT AND, AFTER SEPTEMBER 3, EVEN MORE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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POWERFUL THAN MANY US PRESIDENTS, THE NEWSPAPER STATED THE NEED FOR FRIENDLY ECONOMIC RELATIONS BETWEEN THE US AND MEXICO TO COMPLEMENT THEIR POLITICAL RELATIONS IN A FORM THAT WOULD ESTABLISH JUST CONDITIONS FOR MEXICAN DEVELOPMENT. EL UNIVERSAL QUOTES DR. KISSINGER AS REMARKING THAT THE ECHEVERRIA CHARTER OF ECONOMIC RIGHTS AND DUTIES IS "A POLITICO-ECONOMIC INSTRUMENT DESIGNED TO MAINTAIN INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY, THE IDEAS OF WHICH, IT

SEEMS TO ME, ARE WELL-FOUNDED AND VERY FIRMLY PUT FORTH."
DR. KISSINGER IS QUOTED AS ADDING THAT "I WILL BE ABLE TO
GET MORE INVOLVED IN THIS SUBJECT LATER, AFTER HAVING BEEN
CONFIRMED AS SECRETARY OF STATE." EL UNIVERSAL ALSO REPORTS
THAT DR. KISSINGER NOTED HE WOULD STUDY THE CHARTER WITH
GREAT CARE, AND WOULD CAREFULLY ANALYZE ITS BASES AND
THE SOLUTIONS WHICH IT PROPOSES, SO THAT THE US CAN MAKE
APPROPRIATE COMMENTS "BEFORE THE NEXT GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
THE UNITED NATIONS IS CONVENED."

8. RIGHT-OF-CENTER EL SOL DE MEXICO CHARACTERIZED
DR. KISSINGER'S VISIT AS "POSITIVE" BUT CONTINUED THAT THE
US, NOW THE MOST POWERFUL AND DEVELOPED NATION IN THE WORLD,
HAS THE POWER TO HELP ORGANIZE A MORE JUST FUTURE FOR ALL
NATIONS IN KEEPING WITH DR. KISSINGER'S REMARK THAT "IT IS
JUSTICE AND COOPERATION WHICH CREATE HUMAN WELFARE."

9. NEWSPAPER COLUMNISTS WERE ALSO LARGELY FAVORABLE IN THEIR
COMMENTS ON THE VISIT. ENRIQUE M. LOAEZA TOVAR, WRITING IN
EL NACIONAL, CREDITED DR. KISSINGER WITH THE RECENT NOTE-
WORTHY SUCCESSES OF US FOREIGN POLICY, SUCH AS THE
RAPPROCHEMENT WITH THE PRC AND THE CEASE-FIRE IN VIETNAM,
AND EXPLAINED PRESIDENT NIXON'S RECENT DECISION TO APPOINT
HIM AS SECRETARY OF STATE IN TERMS OF THE GROWING POWER OF
WESTERN EUROPE AND THE WATERGATE CRISIS.

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10. EXCELSIOR COLUMNIST RAMON DE ERTZE GARAMENDI MENTIONED SEVERAL OBSTACLES TO DR. KISSINGER'S APPOINTMENT, SUCH AS HIS POSITION AS HEAD OF THE NSC AND HIS GERMAN-JEWISH BACKGROUND BUT COMMENTED THAT, AS A JEW, HE MIGHT BE MORE SUCCESSFUL IN RESOLVING THE MIDDLE EAST CRISIS THAN WERE HIS RECENT PREDECESSORS. DE ERTZE WAS SKEPTICAL ABOUT THE VISIT, WONDERING WHETHER ITS PURPOSE WAS THE EXPLANATION OF PRESIDENT NIXON'S DECISION TO POSTPONE HIS VISIT TO LATIN AMERICA AND WHY DR. KISSINGER AND FONSEC RABASA USED SUCH UNUSUALLY EFFUSIVE DIPLOMATIC LANGUAGE.

11. SOCORRO DIAZ OF THE LEFTIST EL DIA ADOPTED THE MOST HOSTILE TONE, DESCRIBING THE MYTH OF HENRY KISSINGER WHOSE IMAGE IS THAT OF THE OMNIPOTENT CONSTRUCTOR OF THE NEW WORLD ORDER. SHE REAFFIRMED THE "OLD AND VALID CONVICTION THAT AN OFFICIAL OF THE US WILL NOT BE THE ARCHITECT OF THE LIBERATION AND ADVANCE OF LATIN AMERICA."

12. CARLOS SODI SERRET OF MODERATE NOVEDADES PRAISED THE US AS A DEMOCRACY IN WHICH A FOREIGNER COULD BECOME SECRETARY OF STATE AND DESCRIBED DR. KISSINGER'S APPOINTMENT AS THE LOGICAL OUTCOME OF A SITUATION IN WHICH THE FORMER SECRETARY WAS NOTHING BUT A DIRECTOR OF PROTOCOL. HE COMPARED

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DR. KISSINGER TO THE BRITISH DIPLOMAT CASTLEREAGH, WHO, IN THENINETEENTH CENTURY, INSTITUTED A FOREIGN POLICY BASED UPON THE BALANCE OF POWER, WHICH DR. KISSINGER HAS NOW ADOPTED AS HIS OWN. WITH REGARD TO LATIN AMERICA, SODI COMMENTED THAT, ALTHOUGH THE NEW SECRETARY HAS SPONSORED FEW INITIATIVES, HE HAS BEEN LESS SUCCESSFUL THAN IN OTHER AREAS BECAUSE HE RECOMMENDED THAT THE SPANISH-SPEAKING STATES FOLLOW THE EXAMPLE OF BRAZIL. SODI CONCLUDED BY WARNING OF THE DANGER POSED TO THE US BY THE ECONOMIC TIME-BOMB OF LATIN AMERICA BUT ENDED BY STATING HIS CONFIDENCE THAT LATIN AMERICA WOULD OBTAIN SOME BENEFITS AS A RESULT OF THE PROMISES MADE BY DR. KISSINGER.

13. COMMENT: (A) THE EMBASSY BELIEVES DR. KISSINGER'S VISIT TO HAVE BEEN HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL, PARTICULARLY IN TERMS OF THE GREAT IMPORTANCE LATINS PLACE UPON PERSONAL RELATIONS. THE INTERNATIONAL AND DOMESTIC PRESTIGE OF PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA AND FONSEC RABASA HAS BEEN ENHANCED ACCORDINGLY. THERE CAN BE NO DOUBT, HOWEVER, THAT THE GOM SEEKS TO RELATE THE VISIT TO A WIDE RANGE OF ISSUES AND PROBLEMS, E.G., SALINITY, THE GOM-SPONSORED CHARTER OF ECONOMIC RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF STATES, AND TO A DEPTY OF ISSUES, E.G., US RELATIONS WITH LATIN AMERICA, WHICH

EXCEED THE STATED PURPOSE AND SCOPE OF DR. KISSINGER'S VISIT. IN THIS SENSE, GOM REACTION TO AND INTERPRETATION OF THE VISIT MAY RESULT IN UNDULY AROUSED EXPECTATIONS ABOUT IMPENDING CHANGES IN US POLICY TOWARD MEXICO IN PARTICULAR AND LATIN AMERICA IN GENERAL. (B) THE TENDENCY OF THE MEXI CAN PRESS TO OVERSTRESS AND OCCASIONALLY EVEN TO MISQUOTE THE REMARKS OF DISTINGUISHED VISITORS IN ORDER TO CREATE AN IMPRESSION FAVORABLE TO THE MEXICAN VIEWPOINT WAS SHOWN (E.G., IN PARA 7, ABOVE) IN THE HANDLING OF THE ISSUE OF THE ECHEVERRIA CHARTER. IT IS APPARENT THAT AN EFFORT WAS MADE TO GIVE THE STRONG IMPRESSION THAT DR. KISSINGER WAS VIRTUALLY COMMITTED TO A POSITION SUPPORTING THE CHARTER AND THAT THE SECRETARY-DESIGNATE'S CAREFULLY NON-COMMITAL REMARKS WERE RESHAPED ACCORDINGLY.

14. THE EMBASSY IS POUCHING BY AIRGRAM THE ARTICLES, EDITORIALS AND COLUMNS ABOUT THE VISIT.
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